

HARVEY HOUSE MUSEUM

104 North First Street 505 861- 0581



Belen's
Miracle Window
will be on display
December 11 - 31, 2009

On Sunday, December 13
at 1:00 p.m.

Valencia County Historical Society
will sponsor a talk about the window
by Richard Melzer, Ph.D.

Museum hours: Tuesday - Saturday
12:30 - 3:30 and Sunday 1:00 to 3:00

December 2009

Guest Book - "Miracle Window"
Your comment appreciated

Verginia M Aragon

Diane Martinez

E. Demia Aragon
Richard Howard

Del Chavez

Roddy & Sally Libe
~~Ken Libe~~

John Padilla I saw it!

Lydia Harley Pino

Antonio Illoz

Petra Duran I Saw it!

MARIA ISABEL LATON I saw it.

Janice Leach I saw her!

MARK Montoya I did

Mary Rouser Hard to see at 12:30-gloves

Robert & Holly Subl

Michaela Wood ≠ saw it!

Oralia Otero I saw it!

Emilio Otero I saw it!

Bert Gandy saw it

Diora Cintale interesting!

~~See Jane~~

Shirley Townsend

Paula Sandoval

Lorella Munoz

MONICA GARTLEY

MARY GARTLEY

Thank you Richard Melzer. Let me begin by introducing myself. My name is Anthony Baca I am the grandson of Ramon and Eulalia Baca. It was at their house in 1917 that the miracle on the window occurred.

I currently live in Albuquerque and am married to Shirley Cordova who was from Jarales. We have two daughters Andrea age 21 and a senior at New Mexico State and Jessica age 18 a senior at Sandia High School. I am currently the Deputy Chief U. S. Probation Officer for the District of New Mexico and I am a musician. Alfred Sanchez and myself have had a band for past 29 years and I sing at Our Lady of Annunciation Church in Albuquerque.

Today I will be discussing and presenting the Miracle Window to the Historical Society of Valencia county. The window will be displayed at the Harvey House. On behalf of my family I would like to thank the historical society for acknowledging and honoring a very special and important event in our family history that had a significant effect and impact on Belen and also the surrounding areas. Let me begin by introducing the family members that are here today. They are...

In order to set the mood I will begin by playing a song entitled Bendito Bendito which is very familiar around this area and has been for many years and is sung at various religious services. One of the main reasons for singing a song is that my grandmother Eulalia who was the first to see the miracle window was very fond of singing and especially

singing alavados which I understand were the psalms sung in the form of a Gregorian Chant.

Next I would like to give you some sense of what was the historical setting and climate when the apparition occurred.

The year was 1917. Internationally World War I was in progress and the United States entered on April 6, 1917.

The Russian Revolution took place between February 23 and March 8, 1917.

Closer to home the Mexican Revolution which began in 1910 ended in 1917.

New Mexico had only been a state since 1912 and had elected its second governor Ezequiel Cabeza De Baca. The song O Fair New Mexico was selected as the state song . Incidentally the song was written by Elizabeth Garret the daughter of Sheriff Pat Garret .

This was also the year that President John F Kennedy was born as well as singer Nat King Cole and the trumpeter Dizzy Gillispie.

It was also the year that the composer Scott Joplin died from syphilis in a New York City Mental Hospital.

It was the year that Father Flannagan founded Boy's Town in Nebraska.

My grandmother Eulalia had a set routine which included daily mass attendance and praying the rosary each evening. My grandfather known respectfully as Don Ramon was a Justice of the Peace and Police Judge for many years.

Now I'd like to focus on the window and the historical event. The glass window was purchased in the winter of 1917 at the mercantile establishment of John Becker in Belen at a cost of a \$1.15. The house my grandparents lived in was located just off of south Main street. It still exists. It is that large adobe house just to the north of the Golden Corral restaurant

Shortly after the Lenten Season in 1917 my grandmother was sweeping her backyard, which she did on a regular basis, and happen to glance at the attic window facing the east. Instead of the plain glass she saw a beautiful painting of Jesus Christ in a deep blue robe ascending into heaven. Disbelieving her eyes she called my grandfather who confirmed her vision.

The glass window was approximately 12 feet above the ground looking down into my grandfather's corral. At the elevation of the window there was nothing that could have possibly cast a reflection upon the window from the outside. The room from which the window looks was vacant with no furniture and the walls were plastered white.

And it was the year the Chicago White Soxs beat the New York Giants in the World Series.

But most importantly it was the year that the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared six times to three children near the town of Fatima, Portugal between May 13th and October 13th 1917.

It is my understanding that my grandmother Eulalia Castillo Baca was born in 1869 and died on October 12, 1951. My grandfather Ramon Baca y Chavez was born in 1865 and died in May 1950. I was born in 1949 so I didn't get to know either one.

My grandmother Eulalia was described to me as a very religious, hardworking, meticulous, quiet and conservative person. She was reportedly a very strong and stout woman.

From the many descriptions I have gotten about her and also seeing my aunts Ana Maria and Beatrice who I understand were very similar to her, the image of my grandmother that so readily comes to my mind is that of a traditional Mennonite or Amish woman. This became very obvious to me when my family and I were in Cuautemoc, Chihuahua, Mexico a few years back. One of our primary interests for going there was to see the Mennonite community and meet some of the Mennonite people. We were fortunate enough to tour the Mennonite area and eat with a Mennonite family. What I found interesting was that the setting and the people for some reason felt familiar.

Others came to see the miraculous window until many of the towns people had seen the image. As the sun began to set that day the vision disappeared and the window became blank. The following morning the image reappeared as beautiful as on the previous day.

Many Doubting Thomases thought the explanation was a strange phenomenon caused from a reflection of the light rays on the attic wall. A blank cloth was placed inside of the window. this caused the image to show plainer than before.

Other theories were advanced and each in turn was discarded. Glass experts also visited the house and made tests on the window. They cleaned both surfaces of the window with chemicals, acids and gasoline and these had no effect upon the window whatsoever.

Photographers both professional and amateurs took pictures from the roof and the yard but when they were developed and printed they only showed blurs on the window glass. Finally Fernando Gabaldon who was a devout Catholic from Albuquerque and in ill health took a small camera to Belen to see if he could obtain a likeness of the image. The picture was remarkably clear. His picture of the hundreds taken was the only one to show the image clearly.

Several thousands of people visited the window. Many priests and other members of the clergy as well as numerous sisters of Catholic orders viewed the window. My grandparents would invite people to the attic to assure them

that there was no reflection. Looking out of the window from the inside you only saw plain glass but when you returned to the yard you saw the vision again.

During the Our Lady Of Belen Fiestas luminarias were placed on the house top. People all over the area would visit the window for a special blessing.

There were offers to erect a shrine for the window, to purchase the window to charge tourists and others to build a church. My grandparents refused all offers.

The window was eventually moved to a house on Dalies avenue which is about a block east of Buckland Pharmacy where it was displayed from the attic window facing Dalies Avenue. My grand parents lived at this home until their deaths in 1950 and 1951 respectively.

The window remained there until the early 1970's when my surviving aunts Ana Maria And Beatrice moved to Albuquerque and took it with them. In Albuquerque the window was stored.

In the mid 1980's my brother Philip was given the window which he took with him to Longmont, Colorado. It has been stored in his basement until just recently when he agreed to have it displayed at the Harvey house.

I will end my presentation with the song De Colores which is reflective of the colors and visions that have been seen in this window but also the faith that it has instilled in many.

Chris -

2-27-2000

7/17/2013

Harvey House Museum
104 N. 1st St.
Belen, New Mexico, 87002

Baca pg. 1

Dear Harvey House Museum,

My name is Deborah R. Baca (Beal) Bailey. My Father was Joseph Phillip Baca (Phil Baca). I am sending a copy of the Article Loan Agreement to the Valencia County Historical Society for the 'Miracle Window.' My Father, Phil Baca, was given the window by his Aunt as a gift for always helping and praying with the family. My Father, Phil Baca, was looked at as the most spiritual and even was going to school to be a Priest before he met my Mother, Victoria E. Baca.

The Loan Agreement was signed by the President of the Valencia County Historical Society, Patricia B. Guggivo at the time, in 1999. My Father had the "Miracle Window" at our home in Longmont for a period of time before he agreed to loan it to the Valencia County Historical Society.

I am writing this letter to inform you of new addresses and phone numbers. We are the ones who should be contacted first before any changes are done with the window. I know since my Aunt Connie Baca lives out there she has been notified but we prefer to be notified first.

My Mother's name is Victoria E. Baca. Her new address and phone number are:

Victoria Baca
704 Windflower Dr.
Longmont, CO 80504
Phone number: 303-772-2772

My name, Phil Baca's Daughter, is Debbie Baca- Bailey. My address & Phone number are:

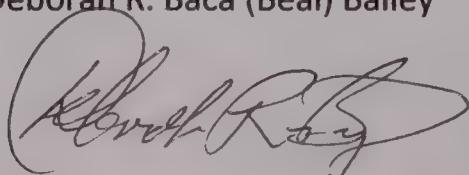
Deborah R. Baca Bailey
1368 Finn Ave.
Lonetree, CO 80124
Phone number: 720-982-9022

I would greatly appreciate if someone would contact me and confirm that you received this. I do not know who is in charge or who I should have addressed this letter to. I have left a few messages but have not heard back.

Thank you for your time.

Blessings!

Deborah R. Baca (Beal) Bailey



Phillip & Victoria Baca
704 Windflower Dr.
Longmont, CO 80504
Phone Number: 303-772-2772
Cell Phone: 303-941-5138

Baca pg. 2

Deborah R. Baca Bailey
1368 Finn Ave.
Lonetree, CO 80124
Phone/cell: 720-982-9022

Crystal A. Baca Ruby
10741 Stonington St.
Highlands Ranch, CO 80126
Phone/ cell: 303-437-0868

Nathan L. Baca
31 Grenard Terrace
San Francisco, CA 9410
Phone/cell: 415-902-4092

ARTICLE LOAN AGREEMENT TO THE VALENCIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Lenders' Names: The Joseph P. and Victoria E. Baca Family (3620
Yale Dr., Longmont, CO 80126-5062)
80503-2139

Description of Article:

A vintage home window (circa 1927) measuring 36 3/4 inch X 23 1/4 inch frame and 32 inch X 19 1/2 inch glass window. There is a crack across the width of the glass window. The glass window was installed in the frame using wood molding on the outside and putty on the inside. The putty is deteriorating. The frame is 1 1/4 inches thick and is painted an aluminum color. The frame contains two hinges on the inside for mounting and a 1/2 moon locking mechanism for locking the window when not open. A figure of a human, as if on some clouds (which is attributed by some to resemble Christ and others to resemble Mary) appears below the crack. The head, hair, arms (with no hands) and body draped in blue can be seen when exposed to an appropriate angle of light.

Terms of Loan Agreement:

The Joseph P. and Victoria E. Baca family will loan the described window to the Valencia County Historical Society for permanent or occasional display at its museum.

The window shall be displayed (or, when not displayed, stored) by the Valencia County Historical Society with proper security, as agreed upon by the Baca family and the Historical Society. However, the Historical Society will not be responsible for the possible damage or loss of the window.

If for any reason Joseph P. and Victoria E. Baca wish to regain possession of the window at any time, they may do so by communication in writing to the Valencia County Historical Society. In such an event, the lenders will be responsible for retrieving the window.

In the event of Joseph P. and Victoria E. Baca's deaths, their children as a group may request the return of the window if they feel the window has been desecrated or is being used for sacrilegious purposes. The lenders' children are (in order of receipt, list #1): Deborah R. Beal (2575 Stratford Circle, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762), Crystal A. Ruby (3977 E. Garnet Way, Highlands Ranch, CO 80126-5062), and Nathan L. Baca (3620 Yale Dr., Longmont, CO 80503-2139).

At no time do the Bacas wish that any individual profit from the window's display. Any monies received can only be used by the Valencia County Historical Society for the upkeep and maintenance of the Historical Society's museum. If so desired by the Historical Society, monies may also be donated to Our Lady of Belen Catholic Church. Anyone, including members of the Valencia County Historical Society, may do research and write about the window for articles or books that may incur a profit.

If at any time the Valencia County Historical Society no longer desires to display the window it must be returned to Joseph P. and Victoria E. Baca or, if they are deceased, the window shall be returned to one of their children, in the order listed above (list #1). If the children are deceased, then the window may be returned to (in order of receipt, list #2): Rebecca C. Abeyta (address: _____), Rebecca M. Apodaca (address: _____), Raymond I. Baca (address: _____), John M. Baca (address: _____), Anthony P. Baca (address: _____), Mary Jo Quick (address: _____), and Susan M. Gonzales (address: _____). If those in list #2 are also deceased, then it shall be returned to or renegotiated by the grandchildren or progeny of the children of Joseph P. and Victoria E. Baca, list #1 above. If the grandchildren or progeny of list #1 are also deceased, then it shall be returned to or renegotiated by the children or progeny from family members in list #2 above. If the grandchildren or progeny of list #1 and list #2 are deceased or no longer interested in the window, the Valencia County Historical Society should offer it to Our Lady of Belen Catholic Church of Belen, New Mexico.

Joseph P. Baca 1-21-99
Joseph P. Baca Date

Victoria E. Baca 1-22-99
Victoria E. Baca Date

Patricia B. Huggins
President, Valencia County Historical Society

1/14/99
Date

Belen's 'Miracle Window' is still a mystery

(*La Historia del Rio Abajo* is a regular column about Valencia County history written by members of the Valencia County Historical Society.

This month's article is based on information gathered from contemporary newspaper accounts and from interviews with John B. and Connie Baca, Becky Baca, the late Joseph Philip Baca, Bob Garley and Lydia Pino.

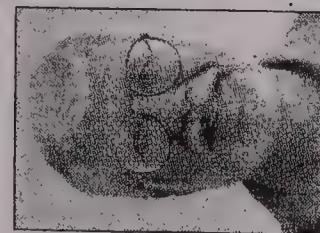
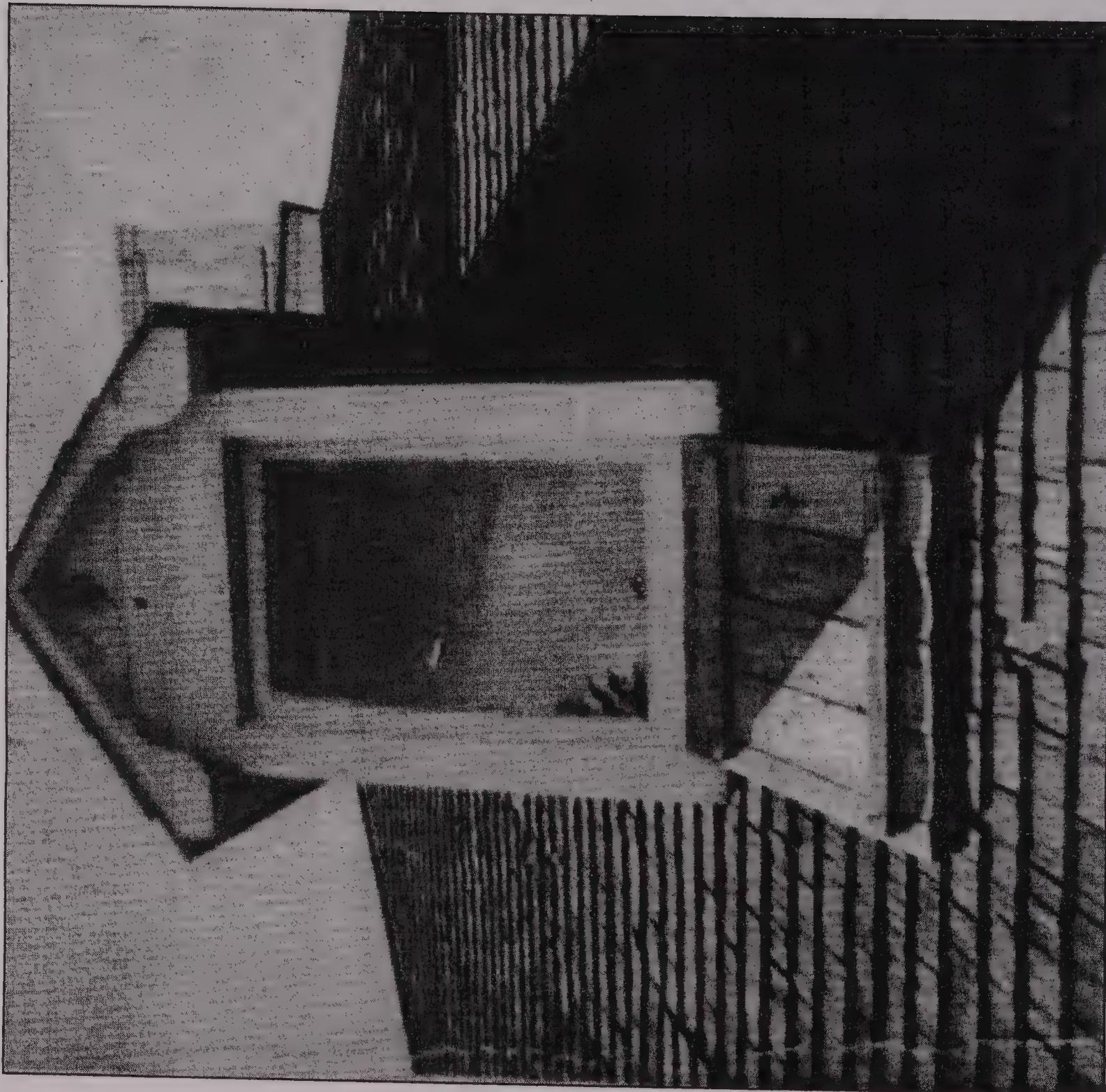
This month's author is a professor of history at the University of New Mexico-Valencia Campus and president of the Valencia County Historical Society.

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Judge Baca and his wife, Eulalia Castillo Baca, had raised seven fine children and were active members of Our Lady of Belen Catholic Church. One of their five daughters, Maria Lucia, had become a nun, serving at Loretto College in El Paso.

Always eager to improve their well kept home on Gilbert Avenue off South Main Street, the Bacás had bought a new window-pane from the Becker Dailies store in December 1926. Measuring 20 inches



Richard Melzer

AN IMAGE OF CHRIST is said to be present on this "Miracle Window," which will be on display at the Harvey House Museum in Belen until the end of the month.

Submitted photo

Window: Historical Society to host display at Harvey House Museum

from PAGE 1C

the window's interior surface, but rather than eliminating the image, the dark background just made it clearer.

Others wondered if the image was a reflection of an object in the surrounding area. After careful scrutiny, no such object was discovered.

Despite Eulalia Baca's objections, glass experts arrived from Albuquerque to test the window, cleaning it inside and out with various chemicals, acids and even gasoline. But nothing altered or affected the image.

According to another theory, advanced by a Santa Fe newspaper, "pictures may have been put in the glass by some process similar to that used in making stained glass windows and through an error this picture glass was sent to Belen." Countless visitors attempted to photograph the apparition from the Bacas' yard or roof. A movie company even tried to film the scene for a newsreel to be shown in movie theatres. But not even the most sophisticated cameras could capture the image. Once developed, pictures and movies always came out blurred.

Over the years, only one

person ever photographed the window successfully. Using a simple, low-cost camera, Fernando Gabaldon of Albuquerque had accomplished what all others had failed to do.

A poor invalid, Gabaldon made his unique photograph into postcards, and asked Judge Baca to sell them to visitors for 25 cents each. The judge agreed, giving all the proceeds to the image's only successful photographer.

Like many others, Fernando Gabaldon had come to see the Bacas' window in hopes that a miracle might cure his illness. Some visitors were cured, although others, including Gabaldon, were not. The window was never known as a healing site like the legendary Santuario in Chimayó or other holy sites in New Mexico or the world.

With time, the image was said to have faded, and the number of visitors declined. The Great Depression of the 1930s limited travel for many would-be pilgrims from beyond Belen.

The Bacas brought the miracle window with them when they moved to a house on

Dalies Avenue. Tragically, the window cracked in the move, but the pane was not shattered and the image of Christ was untouched. Many considered the window's survival a miracle in itself.

The Bacas installed the glass in the second floor window of their new home so that visitors could still see it from the street below. When Don Ramon and Eulalia died in 1950 and 1951, respectively, their daughters, Ana Maria and Beatrice, continued to live in the house and display the famous image of Christ.

Meanwhile, the house on Gilbert Avenue was sold to Bob Garley in 1967. After water damaged the property in the terrible flood of 1969, the Garleys remodeled the building and have lived there ever since.

Until a local historian came by on a recent Saturday morning, no one had ever asked them about the miracle window. The only unusual phenomena the family has experienced are when Bob's daughter, Lydia Pino, and other relatives sometimes hear strange knocking on doors and inexplicable footsteps on the staircase.

Many Belen residents still remember seeing the miracle window at its Dalies Avenue location. Some recall uttering prayers of devotion as they passed by, especially if they had loved ones in the military during times of war. Some prayed as they walked to class in the old high school several blocks away, especially when they faced final exams or other personal challenges.

The miracle window was moved for a third time when Ana Maria and Beatrice moved to Albuquerque, and put the glass into storage in the early 1970s. In the mid-1980s Phil Baca, Ramon and Eulalia's grandson, brought the window to his home in Longmont, Colo., for safekeeping.

Leaders of the Valencia County Historical Society learned of the window's long history, discovered its location in Colorado and helped negotiate its return to the Rio Abajo in 1999.

For others, Belen's greatest mystery remains a mystery. What a *New Mexico Magazine* author wrote in June 1941 remains true today: "To date, no one has given a satisfactory (scientific) explanation concerning the vision."

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La Vida Milestones Archives Locals 2009

Belen's 'Miracle Window' is still a mystery



Written by News-Bulletin Staff

Saturday, 12 December 2009 06:00

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Submitted photo; An image of Christ is said to be present on this "Miracle Window," which will be on display at the Harvey House Museum in Belen until the end of the month.

Always eager to improve their well kept home on Gilbert Avenue off South Main Street, the Bacas had bought a new windowpane from the Becker Dalies store in December 1926. Measuring 20 inches by 32 inches, the window had cost only \$1.15, or roughly \$13.50 in today's money.

Sixty three-year-old Ramon and 59-year-old Eulalia had not noticed anything unusual when they had installed their new window. But that had all changed on June 1, 1927.

On that Friday morning, Eulalia had returned from attending daily mass and was cleaning her backyard when she glanced up at her east-facing attic window. To her surprise, an image of Christ ascending into heaven was clearly evident in the window in colors of soft blue, green, red and brown.

Eulalia called Don Ramon to come see the breathtaking vision. Devout Catholics, the couple was sure they were witnessing a miracle, especially because the image of Christ had appeared in their window shortly after the Lenten season had ended.

Word of the miracle window soon spread through Belen and beyond. Men, women and children flocked to the Bacas' home to see the image for themselves. By June 27, the Belen News reported, "Thousands of people from different parts of the state have motored to Belen to see the strange apparition."

Many more visitors came by the Bacas' house during the Belen fiestas later that summer. Believers prayed at the window, asking for special blessings for all those who had traveled from far and wide to attend the famous fiestas.

The Bacas' window became so well known that the Southwestern Indian Detours Co. made it a special destination by 1928. The Detours offered Santa Fe Railway passengers opportunities to interrupt their train travel to take excursions by car to local attractions, including Indian pueblos and Spanish mission ruins.

Driven to Belen from Albuquerque, Detour passengers stood in awe at the Bacas' humble dwelling (located just north of the China King restaurant today).

The Southwestern Indian Detours may have profited from the miracle window, but the Baca family never did. Many people offered to

buy the window, and a showman promised the Bacas thousands of dollars if they would allow him to build a fence around the family's property and sell tickets for the chance to see the image.

But the Bacas never considered selling tickets, souvenirs or refreshments, although these commercial ventures may well have made them rich.

Instead, the Bacas graciously displayed their window at all hours of the day. Like custodians of a sacred shrine, they believed that it was their religious duty to share their miracle and their faith with others. Many priests and nuns had joined the crowds of reverent visitors.

In fact, so many visitors arrived to see the image that the Bacas began to board up the window at night, for fear that someone might hurl a stone or otherwise damage the miracle left in their care.

Visitors soon realized that the image of Christ could only be seen in daylight, and could not be seen from the attic's interior. Located about 12 feet above ground level, the image could be viewed from any angle in the yard below. Some said that if they gazed long enough, they could see the Christ figure's arms move.

Observers saw as many as three images in the Bacas' window. Visiting the site on July 1, 1927, Jim Whittington of Santa Fe reported that when he stood below the window he could see "a figure of the Christ child seated in a chair with a basket of roses nearby. Standing further from the window the figure of Christ, the man, could be seen. Standing still further away the figure of Christ's mother is clearly outlined."

Of course there were skeptics among those who came to see the window. Doubting Thomases wanted to examine the window from inside the house to see if the strange phenomenon was caused by light reflecting off an image on the attic's wall. No such image was found in the vacant attic.

In fact, a black cloth was placed over the window's interior surface, but rather than eliminating the image, the dark background just made it clearer.

Others wondered if the image was a reflection of an object in the surrounding area. After careful scrutiny, no such object was discovered.

Despite Eulalia Baca's objections, glass experts arrived from Albuquerque to test the window, cleaning it inside and out with various chemicals, acids and even gasoline. But nothing altered or affected the image.

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Leaders of the Valencia County Historical Society learned of the window's long history, discovered its location in Colorado and helped negotiate its return to the Rio Abajo in 1999.

As generous as ever, the Baca family lent the window to the historical society, which kept the priceless item in a vault in the local Wells Fargo bank until its recent move to an equally safe place in town.

The Valencia County Historical Society displayed the miracle window at a large reception in the Wells Fargo bank building on February 27, 2000. Anthony Baca presented a brief history of his grandparents' window and led the singing of "De Colores," a song he called a "reflection of the colors and visions that have been seen in this window" for more than 70 years.

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Contact



Eudocimus Scry



1275-1250
Fowler C.
Banco
1911

Nov. 1911
Anhinga /
Pura
Cuba
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E. 12

Joseph Phillip Baca
1942-2002

Joseph Phillip Baca, of Longmont, Colo., and a former resident of Belen, died Monday, Feb. 18. He developed mesothelioma from asbestos in 1997 and succumbed after many surgeries and cancer treatments.

He was born Oct. 2, 1942, to Ignacio C. and Rebecca Castillo Baca in Belen. Baca received his undergraduate degree and master's degree in electrical engineering at the University of New Mexico. He worked for IBM and Lockheed Martin in Colorado.

Baca presented the Miraculous Window, which had been in his family's home in Belen, that is said to reflect the image of Jesus, to the Valencia County Historical Society on permanent loan. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus 4th Degree, BPO Elks No. 1055, Moose Lodge No. 1548, and St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Longmont.

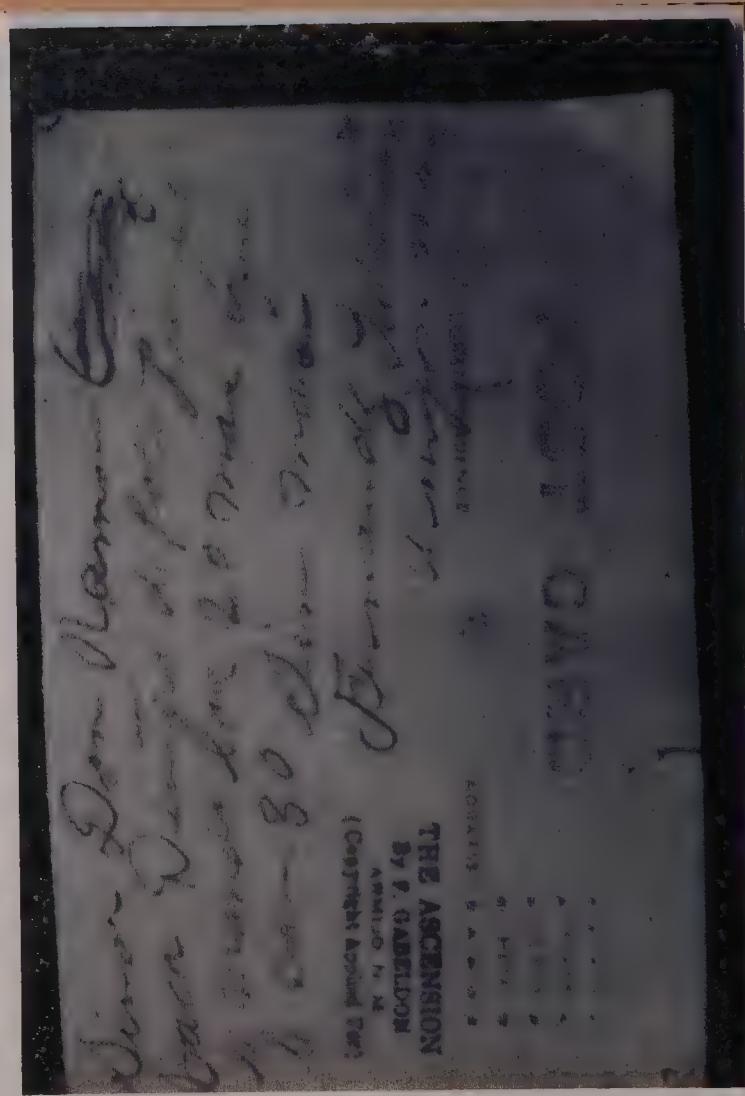
Baca was preceded in death by his father, Ignacio; a son, Steven Philip on Oct. 10, 1994; a brother, Nash Baca in 1982; and father-in-law, Alfred Fields. He is survived by his wife, Vickie, of Longmont, his children, Nathan, Debbie and Dan Beal, and Crystal and Erik Ruby; and four grandchildren. He is also survived by his mother and step-father, Rebecca and Arthur S. Abeyta; sister, Becky and Joe Apodaca; brother, John and Connie C. Baca, all of Belen; brothers, Raymond and Alice H. Baca, and Anthony and Shirley C. Baca; sisters, Mary Jo Baca, and Mary Susan and Bennie Gonzales; mother-in-law, Lugarda Fields, all of Albuquerque; aunts, Stella Baca of La Constancia and Delfinia Gilbert of Pueblitos and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Rosary service and Mass of the Resurrection were Friday, Feb. 22, in Longmont. Interment took place at Mountain View Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Boulder county or the American Lung Association of Colorado in care of Ahlberg Funeral Chapel, 326 Terry St. Longmont, Colo., 80501.



Miracle Window





Thank you Richard Melzer. Let me begin by introducing myself. My name is Anthony Baca I am the grandson of Ramon and Eulalia Baca. It was at their house in 1917 that the miracle on the window occurred.

I currently live in Albuquerque and am married to Shirley Cordova who was from Jarales. We have two daughters Andrea age 21 and a senior at New Mexico State and Jessica age 18 a senior at Sandia High School. I am currently the Deputy Chief U. S. Probation Officer for the District of New Mexico and I am a musician. Alfred Sanchez and myself have had a band for past 29 years and I sing at Our Lady of Annunciation Church in Albuquerque.

Today I will be discussing and presenting the Miracle Window to the Historical Society of Valencia county. The window will be displayed at the Harvey House. On behalf of my family I would like to thank the historical society for acknowledging and honoring a very special and important event in our family history that had a significant effect and impact on Belen and also the surrounding areas. Let me begin by introducing the family members that are here today. They are...

In order to set the mood I will begin by playing a song entitled Bendito Bendito which is very familiar around this area and has been for many years and is sung at various religious services. One of the main reasons for singing a song is that my grandmother Eulalia who was the first to see the miracle window was very fond of singing and especially

singing alavados which I understand were the psalms sung in the form of a Gregorian Chant.

Next I would like to give you some sense of what was the historical setting and climate when the apparition occurred.

The year was 1917. Internationally World War I was in progress and the United States entered on April 6, 1917.

The Russian Revolution took place between February 23 and March 8, 1917.

Closer to home the Mexican Revolution which began in 1910 ended in 1917.

New Mexico had only been a state since 1912 and had elected its second governor Ezequiel Cabeza De Baca. The song O Fair New Mexico was selected as the state song . Incidentally the song was written by Elizabeth Garret the daughter of Sheriff Pat Garret .

This was also the year that President John F Kennedy was born as well as singer Nat King Cole and the trumpeter Dizzy Gillispie.

It was also the year that the composer Scott Joplin died from syphilis in a New York City Mental Hospital.

It was the year that Father Flannagan founded Boy's Town in Nebraska.

My grandmother Eulalia had a set routine which included daily mass attendance and praying the rosary each evening. My grandfather known respectfully as Don Ramon was a Justice of the Peace and Police Judge for many years.

Now I'd like to focus on the window and the historical event. The glass window was purchased in the winter of 1917 at the mercantile establishment of John Becker in Belen at a cost of a \$1.15. The house my grandparents lived in was located just off of south Main street. It still exists. It is that large adobe house just to the north of the Golden Corral restaurant

Shortly after the Lenten Season in 1917 my grandmother was sweeping her backyard, which she did on a regular basis, and happen to glance at the attic window facing the east. Instead of the plain glass she saw a beautiful painting of Jesus Christ in a deep blue robe ascending into heaven. Disbelieving her eyes she called my grandfather who confirmed her vision.

The glass window was approximately 12 feet above the ground looking down into my grandfather's corral. At the elevation of the window there was nothing that could have possibly cast a reflection upon the window from the outside. The room from which the window looks was vacant with no furniture and the walls were plastered white.

And it was the year the Chicago White Soxs beat the New York Giants in the World Series.

But most importantly it was the year that the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared six times to three children near the town of Fatima, Portugal between May 13th and October 13th 1917.

It is my understanding that my grandmother Eulalia Castillo Baca was born in 1869 and died on October 12, 1951. My grandfather Ramon Baca y Chavez was born in 1865 and died in May 1950. I was born in 1949 so I didn't get to know either one.

My grandmother Eulalia was described to me as a very religious, hardworking, meticulous, quiet and conservative person. She was reportedly a very strong and stout woman.

From the many descriptions I have gotten about her and also seeing my aunts Ana Maria and Beatrice who I understand were very similar to her, the image of my grandmother that so readily comes to my mind is that of a traditional Mennonite or Amish woman. This became very obvious to me when my family and I were in Cuautemoc, Chihuahua, Mexico a few years back. One of our primary interests for going there was to see the Mennonite community and meet some of the Mennonite people. We were fortunate enough to tour the Mennonite area and eat with a Mennonite family. What I found interesting was that the setting and the people for some reason felt familiar.

Others came to see the miraculous window until many of the towns people had seen the image. As the sun began to set that day the vision disappeared and the window became blank. The following morning the image reappeared as beautiful as on the previous day.

Many Doubting Thomases thought the explanation was a strange phenomenon caused from a reflection of the light rays on the attic wall. A blank cloth was placed inside of the window. this caused the image to show plainer than before.

Other theories were advanced and each in turn was discarded. Glass experts also visited the house and made tests on the window. They cleaned both surfaces of the window with chemicals, acids and gasoline and these had no effect upon the window whatsoever.

Photographers both professional and amateurs took pictures from the roof and the yard but when they were developed and printed they only showed blurs on the window glass. Finally Fernando Gabaldon who was a devout Catholic from Albuquerque and in ill health took a small camera to Belen to see if he could obtain a likeness of the image. The picture was remarkably clear. His picture of the hundreds taken was the only one to show the image clearly.

Several thousands of people visited the window. Many priests and other members of the clergy as well as numerous sisters of Catholic orders viewed the window. My grandparents would invite people to the attic to assure them

that there was no reflection. Looking out of the window from the inside you only saw plain glass but when you returned to the yard you saw the vision again.

During the Our Lady Of Belen Fiestas luminarias were placed on the house top. People all over the area would visit the window for a special blessing.

There were offers to erect a shrine for the window, to purchase the window to charge tourists and others to build a church. My grandparents refused all offers.

The window was eventually moved to a house on Dalies avenue which is about a block east of Buckland Pharmacy where it was displayed from the attic window facing Dalies Avenue. My grand parents lived at this home until their deaths in 1950 and 1951 respectively.

The window remained there until the early 1970's when my surviving aunts Ana Maria And Beatrice moved to Albuquerque and took it with them. In Albuquerque the window was stored.

In the mid 1980's my brother Philip was given the window which he took with him to Longmont, Colorado. It has been stored in his basement until just recently when he agreed to have it displayed at the Harvey house.

I will end my presentation with the song De Colores which is reflective of the colors and visions that have been seen in this window but also the faith that it has instilled in many.

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Miracle Windows
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